(a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables being produced in the country and the percentage out of this being processed;

(b) the shortcomings in the proper development of the industry; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for encouraging its modernization keeping in view the development of food processing industries at desired level being the largest producing country of fruits and vegetables in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Production of fruits and vegetables in the country is estimated to be around 100 million tonnes. Processing of fruits and vegetables has increased from 0.5% in 1988 to 1.8% in 1996 of the total production.

(b) and (c) While there is a great potential for growth of the industry, the slow growth can be attributed to factors such as lack of post harvest processing, infrastructure, inadequate linkage between the farmers and the processors, and lack of marketing efforts etc. Government has been taking various steps for development of the Food Processing Industries including fruit and vegetable processing, which inter-alia includes liberalised polices for investment including foreign investment, removal of restrictions thereon, and providing fiscal concessions. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is also implementing various Plan Schemes under which financial assistance is provided to State Governments/ Joint Sector/Cooperative Sector etc.

[English]

Welfare Programmes

1081. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :
SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he announced a package of programmes for the welfare of the SCs, STs, OBCs, Minorities and other socially disadvantaged groups of the States during his visit to Tripura on April 3 and 4, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) A *Statement* is enclosed.

Statement

Package Programme Announced by the Welfare Minister	Steps Taken for Implementation
1	2
1. For evolving a package of schemes for funding the rubber based development schemes for the poor tribals, SCs, OBCs, and the Minorities, a meeting will be convened in New Delhi shortly, with all concerned Ministers/Departments of the Central and the State Governments, so that the mode of funding to the schemes could be finalised. The National level financial institutions for SCs/STs, OBCs and the Minorities will be associated with funding of the schemes in suitable manner.	A meeting in this regard is proposed to be convened in New Delhi with all concerned Ministers/Departments of the Central and State Govts. and the National level Finance Development Corporations for SCs, STs, OBCs and Minorities.
2. 10 Hostels for ST boys and girls will be sanctioned during 1997-98.	Process for sanctioning the hostels has been initiated and sanction will be communicated shortly.
3. One or two tribal girls Schools will be sanctioned during the 1997-98, under the scheme of Schools for Low Female Literacy Pockets, if the norms are fulfilled.	The details of the scheme called Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya is under finalisation. Residential Schools for the girls will be considered for sanction subject to fulfilment of norms.

1	2
4. The allocation of Special Central Assistance to the State of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) areas will be increased significantly.	As a part of the North-Eastern package, the Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan for Tripura has been increased from Rs. 444.66 lakhs to Rs. 635 lakhs and the first instalment of Rs. 320 lakhs has been released. In addition an amount of Rs. 100 lakhs has been released in recognition of the State Govt. having adopted Maharashtra Model for Tribal Development.
5. At least 20 NGOs will be assisted for undertaking the schemes for welfare of weaker sections.	At present 4 NGOs from Tripura are being assisted for undertaking programmes for welfare of SCs/STs. Grant to 16 other NGOs will be considered for sanction during 1997-98 subject to the fulfilment of eligibility conditions by the NGOs.
6. 5 Old Age Homes will be sanctioned.	Proposal for sanction of five Old Age Homes have been received from the State Govt., which are under process.
7. Rs. 40.00 lakhs will be sanctioned @ Rs. 10.00 lakhs to each of the four Districts for implementation of Central Sector Scheme for purchase/fittings of Aids and Appliances to the handicapped persons.	DRDA South Tripura, was released a grant of Rs. 10 lakhs during 1996-97 under ADIP Scheme. Proposals received from DRDA, North Tripura and DRDA, Ambassa during current year require some more information & inputs. Both these DRDAs have been requested to forward the necessary documents. This Ministry has also written d.o. letters on 7.6.96, 31.12.96 and 9.6.97 to the State Govt. for forwarding the proposals.
8. Rs. 40.00 lakhs will be sanctioned if the State Govt. can send a proposal for the Minority educational institutions managed by the Non-Governmental Organisations.	Proposals from the State Govt. of Tripura for the Minority Educational institutions are still awaited.

[Translation]

Schemes for Tribals

1082. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any schemes for the development of Adivasis and Adivasi areas for the year 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred thereon each year during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The schemes formulated during the previous years are being continued in 1997-98. A *statement* indicating allocation of funds under various schemes for the welfare of tribals for the year 1997-98 is enclosed.

(c) Allocation for 9th Plan is not yet finalised.